

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 EB-08 SS-15 STR-07
AGRE-00 L-03 SP-02 NSCE-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 IC AE-00 /083 W
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O 130334Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9558
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 12689

FOR HOLBROOKE FROM AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD/GENEVA FOR USMTN
BONN FOR DAVID ANDERSON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MTN, JA, US
SUBJECT: STATUS OF US-JAPAN TALKS

REF: STATE 175864

1. WENT TO AIRPORT THIS MORNING TO SEE PRIME MINISTER
FUKUDA OFF. TREMENDOUS CROWD WAS THERE INCLUDING MOST
OF MEMBERS OF LDP, THE FULL CABINET, A GOOD DIPLOMATIC
TURNOUT, AND MANY FRIENDS OF THE PRIME MINISTER, AND HIS
ENTOURAGE. THE PRIME MINISTER DID NOT VISIT THE LOUNGE
BUT IMMEDIATELY, ON LEAVING HIS AUTOMOBILE, WENT THROUGH
THE LINE ON HIS WAY INTO THE PLANE. THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY
NO OPPORTUNITY TO CALL THE PRIME MINISTER ASIDE OR TO
SPEAK WITH HIM PRIVATELY, SO IN ANTICIPATION OF THIS, I
HAD WRITTEN A BRIEF MESSAGE TO THE PRIME MINISTER WHICH
I HANDED TO YOSHIRO MORI WHO IS THE DEPUTY CHIEF
CABINET SECRETARY AND ASKED HIM TO DELIVER THIS TO THE
PRIME MINISTER AT THE FIRST AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITY BE-
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CAUSE OF ITS URGENCY. HE SAID HE WOULD. I REPEATED
THE REQUEST AND IN GOING AWAY FROM THE PLANE I SAW
SHINTARO ABE, THE SECRETARY FOR THE CABINET, AND INFORMED
HIM THAT I HAD GIVEN A HANDWRITTEN MESSAGE TO MORI ON
THE BASIS OF INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON JUST THIS
MORNING AND URGED THAT HE BE SURE THAT IT REACHED THE
PRIME MINISTER. HE SAID HE WOULD.

2. THE MESSAGE I DELIVERED TO MORI READS AS FOLLOWS:

"THE EC AND THE UNITED STATES TOGETHER HAVE WORKED OUT A REASONABLE MTN ACCOMMODATION. JAPAN AND THE EC ARE DEADLOCKED. JAPAN AND THE US ARE DEADLOCKED ON AGRICULTURAL ITEMS SUCH AS TOBACCO, BEEF AND CITRUS AND ON INDUSTRIAL ITEMS SUCH AS COMPUTERS, COLOR FILM AND KRAFT PAPER. IF THERE IS NO ACCOMMODATION WITH JAPAN THERE WILL BE CRITICISM OF JAPAN. THE UNITED STATES DID NOT WANT TO SEE THIS HAPPEN. IF THERE WAS NO ACCOMMODATION, JAPAN COULD WELL BE ISOLATED. THE UNITED STATES DID NOT WANT TO SEE THIS HAPPEN. THE MTN, BARRING ACCOMMODATIONS, WOULD BE TAKING TOO MUCH OF THE SPOTLIGHT AT THE SUMMIT MEETING. THE UNITED STATES DOESN'T WANT THIS TO HAPPEN AND IS OPPOSED TO CRITICISM OF JAPAN AND THE POSSIBLE ISOLATION OF JAPAN. I WAS INSTRUCTED TO SEE THE PRIME MINISTER, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, AND ASK HIM TO GIVE HIS PERSONAL ATTENTION TO BRINGING ABOUT AN ACCOMMODATION WITH THE UNITED STATES ON AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL ITEMS LISTED ABOVE. WE DO NOT WANT JAPAN ISOLATED OR MTN MATTERS TO BECOME THE FOCUS OF THE SUMMIT MEETING."

3. WE HAVE GIVEN FULL TEXT OF TALKING POINTS FROM REFTTEL TO CABINET SECRETARY ABE AND TO FOREIGN MINISTRY WITH REQUEST THEY BE TELEGRAPHED TO PRIME MINISTER. FOREIGN CONFIDENTIAL

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MINISTRY IS PASSING THEM TO HIM AT ANCHORAGE AND PARIS. HE ARRIVES PARIS 1915 THURSDAY PARIS TIME AND DEPARTS AFTERNOON OF JULY 15.

4. KEY DECISION MAKERS, MINISTER NAKAGAWA OF MAFF AND KOMOTO OF MITI, HAVE REMAINED IN TOKYO AND WILL NOT BE ATTENDING SUMMIT. OUR CONTACTS IN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BUREAU OF MOFA ARE ABSOLUTELY MUM ABOUT POSSIBLE JAPANESE REACTION TO PRESENT DEMARCHE EXCEPT TO WONDER WHY TOBACCO INCLUDED IN LIST OF DISPUTED ITEMS.

5. I KNOW PERSONALLY THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS BEEN MAKING EVERY EFFORT IN BOTH THE AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL AREAS TO ACCOMMODATE JAPAN AS MUCH AS HE POSSIBLE CAN TO OUR PROPOSALS AND SUGGESTIONS. HE HAS MET WITH STIFF OPPOSITION WITHIN HIS OWN PARTY IN ALL OF THESE ITEMS BUT HAS PERSEVERED TO THE BEST OF HIS ABILITY TO WORK OUT REASONABLE SOLUTIONS. IT MUST BE KEPT IN MIND THAT THE PRIME MINISTER CANNOT TURN A SWITCH OR PRESS A BUTTON TO ACCOMPLISH THE OBJECTIVES WHICH WE DESIRE. HE HAS IN MANY RESPECTS THE SAME POLITICAL SITUATIONS TO FACE UP TO AS DOES PRESIDENT CARTER. IT IS

MY HOPE THAT THESE MATTERS WILL BE HANDLED IN A STATESMAN-
LIKE, CONSIDERATE AND UNDERSTANDING MANNER SO THAT THE
EXTREMELY FRIENDLY, STRONG RELATIONSHIP WHICH EXISTS BE-
TWEEN JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES CAN BE MAINTAINED AT
THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL. A NUDGE OFTENTIMES IS MUCH
BETTER THAN A PUSH. MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

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